

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines plans to replace the operations of Boeing-737, including those operating in the North-East, with A-319/A-320 aircraft in a phased manner as and when more number of A-319/A-320 join its fleet.

Relaxation in carrying of liquid products by passengers

†2116. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) the date when the restriction was imposed regarding carrying liquid products by the passengers in the planes and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are considering to give relaxation in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the arrangements being made to see that there is no misuse of the relaxation given by Government regarding carrying the liquid products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Instructions were issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on 11.8.2006 imposing restrictions regarding carrying of liquid products by the passengers in their hand baggages or on their person. This was done following the terror alert in United Kingdom wherein terrorist outfits devised a new *modus operandi* to smuggle in components of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), in liquid form, on board as hand baggage to evade normal airport screening procedures.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Limited relaxation has been given to facilitate the passengers, without jeopardising security.

(d) To check misuse of the relaxation, BCAS has issued instructions allowing passengers to carry liquid items/gels/pastes or items of similar consistency in one clear transparent resealable one litre size plastic bag separately, in small quantities required for the duration of journey. Each item should, however, not exceed 100 ml in quantity. The contents of the plastic bag must fit comfortably in it and will be subjected to prescribed screening and security checks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.